

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 256974

E.O. 11652: N/A - TAGS: OEXC

SUBJECT:NATIONAL SYMPHONY BICENTENNIAL EUROPEAN TOUR

FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM

1. NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PLANNING TO UNDERTAKE BICENTENNIAL TOUR OF MAJOR EUROPEAN FESTIVALS DURING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1976, PROVIDED NECESSARY FUNDING CAN BE OBTAINED TO SUBSIDIZE TOUR. PROGRAM WILL OPEN IN ATHENS WITH THREE CONCERTS CONDUCTED BY MAESTRO DORATI ON AUGUST 21, 22, AND 23, 1976. TOUR WILL INCLUDE FESTIVALS IN ATHENS, EDINBURGH, FLANDERS, LUCERNE, ASCONA AND STRESA. INVITATIONS TO PERFORM IN MONTREUX, STUTTGART, VIENNA, MUNICH, HANNOVER AND FRANKFORT ALSO RECEIVED.

2. COST OF TOUR ESTIMATED AT \$200,000. SYMPHONY HAS RECEIVED \$50,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM MOBIL OIL CORPORATION, BUT NEEDS ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MAKE UP CURRENT DEFICIT OF \$150,000 SYMPHONY OFFICIALS, IN EFFORT TO FIND OTHER CORPORATE SPONSORS, ARE PRESENTLY SEEKING TO RAISE FUNDS FROM GREEK-AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE. ANY ASSISTANCE EMBASSY CAN OFFER TO STIMULATE INTEREST AMONG LOCAL GREEK COMPANIES TO HELP FUND PROGRAM OR ADVISE ON U.S. COMPANIES TO APPROACH WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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3. NATIONAL SYMPHONY TOUR HAS RECEIVED DEPARTMENT'S FULL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IF NECESSARY FUNDS ARE OBTAINED, SYMPHONY TOUR MIGHT MEET EMBASSY DESIRE FOR MAJOR ATTRACTION AT ATHENS FESTIVAL. KISSINGER

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